

March 13, 2012
Labor and Public Employees Committee
Senate Bill 352

To Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

My name is Shelta Wilson, I am a licensed home daycare provider in New Haven and I am writing in support of S.B. 352. Although I love being a provider, I find it very hard to run my daycare through the Care4Kids agency. I have been a childcare provider for 11 years, and I have not seen a change in daycare. Some changes I would like to see involve application processing, invoices and the subsidy rate.

As a provider, I have taken many families into my home. I have cared for their children during their application process for Care4Kids. Waiting for months and months for a response from Care4Kids, only to not get paid for the children in my care, has been devastating. It is also devastating to the parents of the children in my care because they have to come up with the money for those months of care that Care4Kids will not reimburse. That leaves me and the parents in a bad predicament. If Care4Kids had responded more quickly, it would have saved a lot of time and trouble.

I also find it hard to pay my bills on time and have enough money to pay for things I need for my business. It takes 30 days to receive an invoice just to get paid for the previous month's work. Then we have to wait 15 days after Care4Kids receives our invoice to be mailed a check. That's a month and a half of waiting to be paid, and within that time bills are being paid late. That leaves us providers in a bad situation.

There has also not been any increase in pay for childcare providers in the 11 years I have been with Care4Kids. Without childcare providers, working people would not be able to work and support their families.

That's why it's very important that we have our union to speak for all of us, so that we can take on issues such as these. We need to work to make things better for providers and parents because the children are our future. That's why we truly care about the childcare system in our state and want to see it improved. Please support SB 352 so that we can start this work.

Sincerely,

Shelta Wilson
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